

In the Claims:

Claims 10, 11, 13, 15, and 16, amend to read as follows:

10. (Amended) The kit of Claim 1, wherein said transport tubes are composed of two interconnected sections constructed to be hermetically sealed, each of said two sections having openings therein constructed to secure the SPME fiber/syringe assembly therein.

11. (Amended) A field-deployable solid phase microextraction kit comprising:

a casing having a lid section, and at least a plurality of hermetically sealed transport tubes located in said casing,

each transport tube securely retaining a solid phase microextraction (SPME) fiber syringe assembly,

said transport tubes being composed of two interconnected sections constructed to be hermetically sealed, each of said two sections having openings therein constructed to secure the SPME fiber/syringe assembly therein,

said two interconnected sections of said transport tubes being secured together by a twist/lock arrangement.

13. (Amended) A field-deployable solid phase microextraction kit comprising:

a casing having a lid section, and at least a plurality of hermetically sealed transport tubes located in said casing,

each transport tube securely retaining a solid phase microextraction (SPME) fiber syringe assembly,

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said transport tubes being composed of two interconnected sections constructed to be hermetically sealed, each of said two sections having openings therein constructed to secure the SPME fiber/syringe assembly therein, at least one seal in said two interconnected sections, one of said two interconnected sections including an end section which extends into the other of said two interconnected sections, and wherein said seal comprises a pair of spaced O-ring mounted in its end section and constructed to contact an internal surface of said other said two interconnected sections.

15. (Amended) A field-deployable solid phase microextraction kit comprising:  
a casing having a lid section, and at least a plurality of hermetically sealed transport tubes located in said casing,  
each transport tube securely retaining a solid phase microextraction (SPME) fiber syringe assembly,  
said tool comprises a housing having a spring mounted plunger therein, said plunger having an opening therein, and said housing having an opening constructed to align with said opening in said plunger, whereby a protective cap is retained in said openings in said housing and said plunger by movement of said plunger, is released from being retained in said housing and said plunger by movement of said plunger.

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16. (Amended) In an SPME kit, the improvement comprising; at least one hermetically sealed transport tube for a SPME fiber/syringe assembly,  
said transport tube having a configured interior corresponding to an exterior of the SPME fiber/syringe assembly, whereby said assembly is secured within said transport tube.

said transport tube including a seal in one end through which an interior  
of said transport tube could be tested.

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